Payment of P.F. Arrears

353. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of arrears due from employrs shere of contribution remaining unpaid, in respect of different sectors of industry and trade as on 1st July, 1994 and the comparative figures as on 1st April of the years 1994, 1993 and 1992;

(b) what steps are being taken to ensure clearance of arrears; and

(c) what steps are being taken to amend the law suitably to ensure smooth clearance of these dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The requisite information as on 1.7.94 is not available. However the total amount of EPF arrears in respect of the unexempted establishmeats during the last 3 years was as given below:

As on	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1st April, 1992 . . .	259.47
1st April, 1993 . . .	267.41
1st April, 1994 . . .	365.79

The information about the employers' share of dues is not maintained separately.

(b) and (c) The existing legal and panel provisions of the EPF & MP Act are considered presently adequate to ensure recovery of the outstanding dues. Necessary action under Sections 7A, 8B & 14 is being taken by the EPF authorities accordingly.

Wage Board for journalists

354. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Joint Action Committee for Wage Board of Journalists has recently submitted a memorandum to Government demanding an upward revision in the pay scales of Working Journalists and declaration of 50 per cent of the wages and salaries as inttrim relief; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have decided to set pune Wage Boards for Working Journalists and Non-Journalist Newspaper employees for revision of wages etc.

Unorganised labour in various fields

355. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the plans of Government for the unorganised labour sector in various fields;

(b) whether there would be a uniform law pertaining to labour, wages, social schemes and employment etc. for them;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government are reluctant to channelize the prganised Labour sector in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) A statement is assached. (see below).

(d) No Sir.

Statement

A large number of existing labour laws like the Minimum Wages Act, the Payment of Wages Act, the Equal Remuneration Act, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act and the Inter-State Migrants Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act etc. are also applicable to the workers engaged in unorganised sector to look after their interests in terms of wages, working hours, social security etc. The Ministry of Labour are administering five Welfare Funds established by legislation to extend welfare and social security schemes in the fields of housing, educational, medical and recreational facilities for beedi, mines (limestone|dolomite, iron, mahganese chrome, mica) and cine workers. EPF & ESI Schemes are also available to unorganised workers subject to coverage of the establishment. There are proposals for bringing forward Central legislations for the welfare of construction workers and agricultural workers who constitute the largest segments of the unorganised labour force in the country. However, there is no proposal to enact a composite law for the whole of unorganised sector as such.

Expert Committee headed by Dr. S. Z. Qasim in the Development of Himalayas

856. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of the expert committee headed by Dr. S. Z. Qasim on the development of Himalayas; and

(b) what steps have been taken to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The Report of the Expert Group set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. Z. Qasim on formulation of national policy for an integrated development of the Himalayan Region is still under examination of the Planning Commission.

Giving low rate by UNDP

857. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been given a very low rating by UNDP on the basis of Human Development Index;

(b) whether Government do not consider it a sad reflection on the policies promises and performance of the Indian States since August, 1947; and

(c) what measures are contemplated to improve the conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The 1994 Human Development of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) places India at 135th position for the year 1992 out of a total of 173 countries